



In Case You Missed It...

From *Wall Street Journal*

California, Florida Top List To Secure High-Speed-Rail Funds

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By Christopher Conkey

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood singled out California and Florida as leading candidates to secure federal funding for high-speed passenger-rail service.

"California and Florida are way ahead of the curve," Mr. LaHood said Friday at a breakfast gathering in Washington. He stressed that no final decisions have been made.

The Federal Railroad Administration ... will start awarding \$8 billion in grants under the economic-stimulus program later this year to states with viable plans for building high-speed rail lines or upgrading existing passenger rail service.

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California hopes to win significant funding for a planned, high-speed rail system with bullet trains traveling more than 200 miles an hour. The project, which would cost at least \$30 billion, would initially link Los Angeles to San Francisco and later expand to San Diego and Sacramento. The state also hopes to secure grants to upgrade its existing network of intercity and commuter lines.

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Mr. LaHood has been meeting with many state and local officials to hear their arguments for securing passenger rail funding, including a meeting on Thursday with San Francisco mayor and California gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom.

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Mr. LaHood said he had gained some early impressions through his meetings with state officials.

California is "way, way, way ahead," he said.

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(This report can be read in its entirety at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124179625738301017.html>)